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DAY LEAD CUBA

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MIAMI, APRIL 13 (UPI)--AUTHORITATIVE REPORTS OF MASS ARRESTS IN CUBA OF ARMY PERSONNEL PURPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN A PLOT AGAINST FIDEL CASTRO'S COMMUNIST REGIME MOUNTED HERE TODAY.

THE CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR A FREE CUBA DISCLOSED IT HAS "CONFIRMED REPORTS" THAT MORE THAN 200 SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS WERE JAILED 15 DAYS AGO.

"MORE THAN 100 OF THOSE ARRESTED WERE TROOPS OF CUBA'S WESTERN ARMY CORPS AND RANGED FROM CORPORALS AND SERGEANTS TO LIEUTENANTS AND CAPTAINS," A COMMITTEE SPOKESMAN SAID.

PREMIER CASTRO HAS DIVIDED THE ISLAND INTO THREE ARMY CORPS. THE OTHER TWO ARE THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN ARMIES. THE WESTERN ARMY COVERS PINAR DEL RIO, HAVANA AND PART OF MATANZAS PROVINCES.

"THIRTY OF THE OFFICERS SEIZED WERE CAPTAINS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

YESTERDAY, A FORMER CASTRO ARMY CAPTAIN WHO ESCAPED FROM CUBA BY BOAT SAID THE COMMUNIST REGIME HAS APPARENTLY ARRESTED HUNDREDS OF SOLDIERS AS WELL AS AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF HAVANA SECRET POLICE WITHIN THE PAST THREE WEEKS.

MANUEL D. TORANZO, EX-REBEL ARMY CAPTAIN AND FORMER CUSTOMS INSPECTOR AT HAVANA AIRPORT, SAID "ARMY FRIENDS" INDICATED THAT AS MANY AS 350 TROOPS CONNECTED WITH HAVANA'S FIFTH MILITARY DISTRICT WERE UNDER ARREST.

THE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS ARE IN THE VIBORA-LAWTON SECTION OF THE CAPITAL WHERE TORANZO LIVED BEFORE FLEEING THE ISLAND IN A HOME-MADE BOAT WITH 19 OTHER REFUGEES LAST MONDAY NIGHT.

BOTH REPORTS CAME LESS THAN A WEEK AFTER CASTRO ANNOUNCED THE SMASHING OF A SO-CALLED "SPY RING" WITH THE EXECUTION OF A HIGH-RANKING CUSTOMS OFFICIAL IN HAVANA AND THE ARREST OF 53 PERSONS INCLUDING TWO AMERICAN BAPTIST MINISTERS.

THE MINISTERS ARE DR. HERBERT CAUDILL, 61, OF ATLANTA, GA., AND HIS SON-IN-LAW JAMES DAVID FITE, 31, OF FORT WORTH, TEX.

THE CITIZENS COMMITTEE, WHICH CLAIMS EXTENSIVE CONNECTIONS WITH CUBAN UNDERGROUND SOURCES, SAID A THOROUGH "SOVIETIZATION" OF CASTRO'S MILITARY FORCES IS ALSO UNDERWAY.

ALL OFFICERS, NON-COMS AND COMMISSIONED, CONNECTED WITH CASTRO'S OLD "26TH OF JULY" REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT, ARE BEING REPLACED BY CUBANS TRAINED IN THE SOVIET UNION AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE COMMITTEE SAID.

"THOSE REMOVED IN THE RECENT ARRESTS ARE BEING SUBSTITUTED BY THESE IRON CURTAIN GRADUATES," A SPOKESMAN SAID.

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